independent body in terms of some kind of an understanding reached with the State Governments. They have come to the conclusion that they would like to set up an independent body and they are going to.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is Question No. 263.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I am sorry. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Sir, I would like to know how much gas has been allotted to the Kawas power project and the Gandhar power project. What is the quantity of gas actually provided to both the projects? What is the percentage of power generation in both the projects? NTPC is functioning at PLF of 95 to 97 per cent. What is the actual PLF of these two power projects? Sir, allocation of gas is not done according to the allotment. Why are the power stations not being allotted the sanctioned quantity of gas? Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister the fact that gas is being transferred from Gujarat to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh through the pipeline. Why is this gas not being allotted to the power stations in Gujarat? Will the Government do something to remove the injustice being done to Gujarat? When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he promised to allot gas to the combined cycle project of Pipavav. He also promised to remove the injustice done to Gujarat. Will this Government fulfil that promise and allot gas to the Pipavav power project? Will the Prime Minister make an announcement regarding allocation of gas in this House?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, the hon. member had also worked as the Minister of Power. She has rightly said that there is a gap betwen availability and linkage. So far as Kawas and Gandhar power stations are concerned, in 1995-96, the linkage was 10.75 million cubic meter per day against 8.54 million cubic meters gas received. In 1996-97, it was 11.75 million cubic meters per day against 8.97 million cubic meter gas received. There are problems in allocating the sanctioned quantity of gas to power stations. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: When gas is there in Gujarat, why are they not providing gas to the power stations in Gujarat?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, most of the points pertain to the Ministry of Petroleum. I will discuss these points with the Minister of Petroleum. Whatever gas is available, we are giving to the power stations in Gujarat. *(Interruptions).*

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: What about Pipavav? *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, what about Pipavav project? Is it with you?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: Sir, so far as Pipavav project is concerned, the hon. Member will have to put a separate question because it pertains to the Ministry....

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: It pertains to his Ministry...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 264.

Power crisis in the country

*264. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rajubhai A. Parmar.

the Pioneer of January 8, 1997, captioned. "A mid-summer night-mare";

(b) if so, the reasons for failure in evolving a workable formula to meet the power crisis, despite umpteen studies made by several committees, from Rajadhyaksha Committee to Pawar Committee, between 1980 to 1993; and

(c) the steps taken so far to rejuvenate the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The reasons for the power shortage in the country are inadequate capacity addition, low utilization of capacity of thermal plants in the State Electricity Boards and high transmission and distribution losses. In consultation with the State Governments, a Common Minimum National Action Plan for power was formulated in December, 1996 to improve the performance of State Electricity Boards. The basic elements of this Action Plan, *inter-alia*, are:

— Each State/Union Territory shall set up an Independent State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC). To start with such SERCs will undertake only tariff fixation.

— The Union Government will set up a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) which will set the bulk tariffs for all Central generating and transmission utilities.

— Determination of retail tariffs, including wheeling charges etc., will be decided by SERCs which will ensure a minimum overall 3 per cent rate of return to each utility.

— Cross-subsidization between categories of consumers may be allowed by SERCs. No sector shall, however, pay less than 50 per cent of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution).

— Government of India will carry out necessary amendments in the relevant Acts/Rules to allow private participation in transmission.

— A national policy on hydro power development will be evolved by the Central Government.

The implementation of the Common Minimum national Action Plan for power will improve the physical and financial aspects, of generation, transmission and distribution of power. Government have also initiated various steps to meet the power shortage which, *inter-alia*, include addition of capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and effective utilisation of generation by transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions through Inter Regional links.

(c) The most critical issue in the power sector is the improvement in the financial performance of State Electricity Boards. The Government has, therefore, accorded high priority for restructuring the State Electricity Boards. With a view to restructuring the power sector, the Government of Orissa has already enacted the "Orissa Electricity Reforms Act, 1995". Ten States (Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam and Kerala) are also taking steps to restructure the power sector.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Sir, we are happy to note that the Government has drawn out a Common Minimum Action Plan for power which has been circulated to the States. It contemplates setting up of Electricity Regulatory Commissions. I would like to know the precise role of these

Commissions. Would it be a replacement of the State Electricity Boards? The Action Plan also contemplates that.....*(Interruptions)*.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI: As per the reforms, the Government of Orissa has already enacted the Orissa Electricity Reforms Act, 1995. Ten States, i.e. Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam and Kerala, are also taking steps to restructure the power sector. Like Andhra Pradesh, they are also implementing. Orissa, after discussing with the World Bank formed a separate unit for generation and distribution. Andhra Pradesh Government has also sent proposals to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Budgetary Allocation For EAS

*265. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocations for Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the amount actually released during the above period;

(c) the reasons for the cut, if any; and

(d) the amount released during 1996-97, till date, State-wise?

THE MINSITER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) The budget allocations made under EAS was as follows:

	Rs. Crores
1993-94	600.00
1994-95	1200.00
1995-96	1570.00

(b) The amounts acttually released during the above period is Rs. 438.00 crores, Rs. 1146.00 crores and Rs. 1720 crores respectively.

(c) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is a demand driven Scheme. Since the scheme was started w.e.f. 2nd October, 1993, some of the districts did not demand 2nd instalment after utilising first instalment in 1993-94. During 1994-95, Rs. 54.00 crores were transferred from EAS to newly introduced Member of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme. Intensive Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was merged with EAS w.e.f. 1.1.1996 and therefore, Rs. 150 crores were reappropriated from Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to EAS. The entire emount was released during the year.

(d) The statement of amount released during 1996-97 (till date) State-wise may please beseen at Statement.

Statement

Release of Central Share Of Assistance Under EAS During 1996-97

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,840
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,501
3.	Assam	5.540
4.	Bihar	14,050
5.	Goa	80
6.	Gujarat	5,510
7.	Haryana	2,680
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,190
9.	J. & K.	2,409
10.	Karnataka	9,680
11.	Kerala	2,570
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18,805
13.	Maharashtra	4,584
14.	Manipur	900
15.	Meghalaya	490
16.	Mizoram	800
17.	Nagaland	1,906
18.	Orissa	13,320